

in the establishment of what was called the "Central College," and money had been appropriated for the erection of buildings in Albemarle County. Work had already begun upon them when with the sanction of the legislature the scope and title of the institution were changed. The name of "The University of Virginia" was adopted, and all that had been done upon the Central College was embodied in the new scheme. The first Board of Visitors had Jefferson at their head, under the title of Rector, and their first meeting was held in May, 1817. Henceforward the history of the founding of the University of Virginia is virtually the history of Jefferson's private life and labors.

The progress of the work upon the university was beginning to realize Jefferson's hopes; but obstacles now arose in comparison with which all former ones seemed trifling. The colleges already existing in Virginia strenuously opposed granting special favors to so dangerous a rival as Jefferson's institution would surely be. The university had also to suffer the attacks of the clergy and the orthodox element of the State. These assailed especially the appointment of Dr. Cooper to the chair of chemistry. He was known to be a man of very liberal views touching religious and denominational questions, and the charge was freely made that he was a Unitarian, if, indeed, a believer at all in the Christian faith. Jefferson's fellow members on the Board of Visitors saw that to retain Dr. Cooper would imperil the future of the university, and the matter was laid unreservedly before Dr. Cooper himself. With a promptness and good humor which does him honor, he resigned and thus one difficulty was removed. Jefferson himself was much chagrined, for he had set his heart upon having in the State, and especially as a neighbor, a man of Dr. Cooper's talents and scholarship.

The prospect, however, was not yet clear on the financial side. The amount which was necessary for the adequate starting and support of the university was still unappropriated, and Jefferson had many dark moments of uncertainty about it. He spared no arguments to impress upon the leaders of his State how urgent was the need of improvement in all that pertained